

political theater right now, and that certainly includes people on my side of the aisle who have tried to imply that pieces of this are President Biden's fault; that the evildoer here is Vladimir Putin, who is targeting women and children; and Americans should be on the same team against that evil.

So to the degree that the Senator is partly motivated by frustration with some grandstanding that he has seen by people who have an "R" behind their name, I agree.

Second point: I am for this funding, and my criticism of the Biden administration has not been because they wouldn't support funding. In the intel space, there are a whole bunch of arguments and fights we have been having that we can't talk about in this setting but where I just want them to go faster.

But the idea that the problem with the administration, from my point of view, is an unwillingness to fund—that isn't my position, and so the Senator and I are united that that would be an unfair criticism of the Biden administration.

And third and finally, he called our budgeting and appropriations process "insanity." Let's put a pin in that because what I was voting against last week was not done for the purposes of saying the Ukrainian aid money shouldn't move, but it is saying that an insane budget process shouldn't work this way, where the American people can't get access into other monies being spent. And we have 12 or 13 subcommittees of the appropriations process, and we almost never get to vote bill by bill.

I would gladly have us stay here 24/7 for 2, 3, 4 weeks—however long it took. And if we had to cast not just 12 or 13 subcommittee approps packages, but if we had to vote on hundreds or thousands of things item by item—it is a pretty clunky process but a much better process than we have right now, which the Senator from Connecticut rightly described is "insane." On that we agree. Thank you for engaging.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Nevada.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 794, 795, 796, and 797; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc, without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Bidtah N. Becker, of Arizona, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2022 (New Position); Gretchen Gonzalez Davidson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2022; Vanessa Northington Gamble, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026; and David Anthony Hajdu, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

### SAFE CONNECTIONS ACT OF 2021

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 193, S. 120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 120) to prevent and respond to the misuse of communications services that facilitates domestic violence and other crimes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Safe Connections Act of 2021".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, terms used in this Act that are defined in section 344(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by section 4 of this Act, have the meanings given those terms in such section 344(a).

#### SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, human trafficking, and related crimes are life-threatening issues and have lasting and harmful effects on individuals, families, and entire communities.

(2) Survivors often lack meaningful support and options when establishing independence from an abuser, including barriers such as financial insecurity and limited access to reliable communications tools to maintain essential connections with family, social safety networks, employers, and support services.

(3) Perpetrators of violence and abuse described in paragraph (1) increasingly use technological and communications tools to exercise control over, monitor, and abuse their victims.

(4) Communications law can play a public interest role in the promotion of safety, life, and property with respect to the types of violence and abuse described in paragraph (1). For example, independent access to a wireless phone plan

can assist survivors in establishing security and autonomy.

(5) Safeguards within communications services can serve a role in preventing abuse and narrowing the digital divide experienced by survivors of abuse.

#### SEC. 4. PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WITHIN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 344. PROTECTION OF SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND RELATED CRIMES.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ABUSER.—The term 'abuser' means an individual who has committed or allegedly committed a covered act against—

"(A) an individual who seeks relief under subsection (b); or

"(B) an individual in the care of an individual who seeks relief under subsection (b).

"(2) COVERED ACT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'covered act' means conduct that constitutes—

"(i) a crime described in section 4002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)), including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking;

"(ii) an act or practice described in paragraph (11) or (12) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) (relating to severe forms of trafficking in persons and sex trafficking, respectively); or

"(iii) an act under State law, Tribal law, or the Uniform Code of Military Justice that is similar to an offense described in clause (i) or (ii).

"(B) CONVICTION NOT REQUIRED.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to require a criminal conviction or any other determination of a court in order for conduct to constitute a covered act.

"(3) COVERED PROVIDER.—The term 'covered provider' means a provider of a private mobile service or commercial mobile service, as those terms are defined in section 332(d).

"(4) PRIMARY ACCOUNT HOLDER.—The term 'primary account holder' means an individual who is a party to a mobile service contract with a covered provider.

"(5) SHARED MOBILE SERVICE CONTRACT.—The term 'shared mobile service contract'—

"(A) means a mobile service contract for an account that includes not less than 2 consumers; and

"(B) does not include enterprise services offered by a covered provider.

"(6) SURVIVOR.—The term 'survivor' means an individual who is not less than 18 years old and—

"(A) against whom a covered act has been committed or allegedly committed; or

"(B) who cares for another individual against whom a covered act has been committed or allegedly committed (provided that the individual providing care did not commit or allegedly commit the covered act).

"(b) SEPARATION OF LINES FROM SHARED MOBILE SERVICE CONTRACT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 business days after receiving a completed line separation request from a survivor pursuant to subsection (c), a covered provider shall, as applicable, with respect to a shared mobile service contract under which the survivor and the abuser each use a line—

"(A) separate the line of the survivor, and the line of any individual in the care of the survivor, from the shared mobile service contract; or

"(B) separate the line of the abuser from the shared mobile service contract.

"(2) LIMITATIONS ON PENALTIES, FEES, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—A covered provider may not make the separation of a line from a shared